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TO:	FROM:
Mr. Mohamed Chariou	Robert Hunter
COMPANY:	DATE:
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office	9/15/2005
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RE:	YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER:
Response to Final Rejection of application 10/683,928	

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URGENT    FOR REVIEW    PLEASE COMMENT    PLEASE REPLY    PLEASE RECYCLR

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Dear Mohamed:

Please find the attached Response. It has been revised to begin the Claims on page 5.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Hunter".

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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Applicants: Robert R. HUNTER Docket No.: TREND-00102  
Serial No.: 10/683,928 Group Art Unit: 2857  
Filed: October 10, 2003 Examiner: Charioui, Mohamed  
For: **A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR READING AND CONTROLLING UTILITY CONSUMPTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
Response to Office Action

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a)****IN THE CLAIMS:**

Changes are being made to the Independent Claim 1 to incorporate elements of Dependent Claims 14 and 15. Changes are being made to Independent Claim 8 to incorporate elements of Dependent Claims 38 and 39. Existing claims 14, 15, 38 and 39 are hereby cancelled. Two new dependent claims, numbers 40 and 41 have been added.

**REMARKS****CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-39 are pending in the application. Examiner rejected all claims 1-39 in a Final Action on the subject patent application mailed on July 26, 2005.

Claims 1, 3-7, 8-13, 16-18, 20, 22, 24-26, 28, 30 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Halpern (U.S. RE. 35,793) in view of Lestician (U.S. 5,880,677). Claims 2, 14, 31 and 38 are rejected as being unpatentable over Halpern in view of Lestician and Young (U.S. 5,721,659). Claims 15 and 39 are rejected

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